

## **Notice of Public Meeting of a Public Body**

Sections 7.6, 7.7.4 and 7.9.1

### **NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING OF THE – Governor's Forest Health Council**

Pursuant to A.R.S. Section 38-431, notice is hereby given to the members of the Forest Health Council and to the general public that the **Forest Health Council** will hold a meeting open to the public:

**September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

**9:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**County Supervisors Association Building  
1905 West Washington Street, Suite 100  
Phoenix, AZ**

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**Meeting Objective:** To receive an update by State Forestry on which projects were chosen for the Supplemental Fuels funding, to discuss the recent communications from Region 3 regarding FFRI, and to get an update on the Statewide Assessment. Also, to receive an update on ARRA-funded projects in Arizona, to hear a presentation on the Western Governors Association Forest Health Advisory Committee, to receive an update and have a discussion on the Four Forests Restoration Initiative, to receive an update from the WUI Fire Code working group, to review the FHC workplan and discuss Action Items that still need attention, and to further discuss the progress of the Scorecard and the potential progress report.

**1) Call to Order~**

Ethan A., Don B., Brenda B., Kristen B., Victoria C., Wally C., Robert D., Steve G., Mark H., Tom K., Molly P., Steve R., Larry S., Todd S., Rob S., Darrell W., Ron W.

**2) Approval of the Minutes from the July FHC Meeting ~Approved**

- a. Minutes approved, however, if any changes are needed due to limited time to review, members will send to Ethan & Molly.
- b. Ethan advised he will get minutes from previous meeting out in advance of each council meeting. This is for review prior to the following gathering to ensure all is documented properly.

**3) State Forestry Division Update and Presentation ~ Vicki Christiansen and Glen Buettner**

- Supplemental Fuels & ARRA Funding
  - Additional ARRA monies awarded after sweeping, Arizona received 7 million for supplemental fuels
  - ARRA allocation have all been awarded except for (3) from list identified at July 9<sup>th</sup> meeting and in handout provided at September 10<sup>th</sup> meeting- (Crown King | Groom Creek | Govt. Canyon- not signed)
  - Two handouts for both ARRA & Supplemental Fuels were provided to council detailing projects, summaries and amounts allocated as of 9/10
- Recent communications with Region 3 regarding FFRI
  - USSF sent both correspondences' from the Governor and Mike Anable with responses
  - Letters were communicated out to council
  - Response from the Governor and Mike were of acceptance to move it forward, inquiry as to what has been done to date and that the FFRI is important
- Assessment Project Status
  - Assessment Task Group ~ Steve Gatewood
    - Steve advised that the assessment strategy is underway, a good solid team is in place and the team understands the mission that this is both critical and an important opportunity to show the uniqueness of Arizona.
    - Steve will send an email out to council to get validation and feedback.

- Question: How does FHC affect the Assessment Project?
  - Answer: it is complimentary yet with different directives. Purposes are synonymous. Looking for info | strategy resources.
- A possible working group may be established based on feedback from Steve's memo. Steve has asked for a "reply all" response once this email is deployed. And then will identify "product" generated by council.
- November is the estimated due date for first working draft.
- Will determine if input channel is through FHC or working group subset.

#### 4) Update on ARRA-funded projects in Arizona ~ Tom Klabunde

- a. Another round of awards to be made to National Forests
- b. This second round of awards is focused on infrastructure:
  - i. Roads
  - ii. Facilities
  - iii. Campground Reconstruction
- c. Two projects consistent to statewide strategy
  - i. Fuel treatment White Mountains/ Apache
  - ii. Payson Additional 8,000 Acres
- d. Google '**ARRA Projects**' if you want more details
- e. Corbin might be able to make November meeting
  - i. Topic Idea: Region input availability of wood
  - ii. Feedback on source sought
- f. Tom will send short description for project review to Ethan & Molly
- g. Question: Where in the process is "region" in receiving ARRA funds?
  - i. Still potentially could be 100-125 million

#### 5) Presentation and discussion regarding the Western Governor's Association Forest Health Advisory Committee ~Ann Walker

##### ***WGA responsible for 19 States and 3- US Flag Pacific Islands—in summary the association:***

- a. Supports sustainable forest management practices that lead to clean water, clean air, improved wildlife habitat, and energy productions from woody biomass, through the adoption of a comprehensive national policy on sustainable forestry that applies to all categories of forest ownership
- b. Increases funding for science based, collaboratively supported forest restoration as laid out in the 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy
- c. Provides new direction for adequate and stable funding for wildfire suppression and prevention
- d. Supports coordination of federal grant programs for implementing hazardous fuels reduction projects and building capacity of local communities

Additional resources found at [www.westgov.org](http://www.westgov.org)

Question: Are there working groups from WGA that AZ needs representation?

1. Invasive Species – possibility as it is a noted topic that FHC has not been able 'to get their arms around.'
2. Ann-when considering this question, think of it too both in areas that may be barriers, as noted above, but also in successes that may be shared with other states.
3. WUI- is a success for Arizona and should be represented.

**6) Update regarding the Four Forests Restoration Initiative ~ FFRI participants**

- a. Forest Supervisor, Chris Knopp provided update on Apache and Sitgreaves National Forests
  - i. NEPA Analysis vs. Landscape Assessment- weighing trade offs /risks- leaning towards landscape assessment
  - ii. "Collaboration is fine, now we need to get into specifics"
  - iii. U.S. Capital Christmas Tree is coming from Chris's forest this year.
- b. Second Phase Udall Center
  - i. Assessment – Online Survey
    - 1. SWOT Analysis
    - 2. Recommendations for going forward
  - ii. Direct Facilitation
- c. Working Group- Bruce Update
  - i. Working on external communications strategy
  - ii. Charter outline
    - 1. Timeframe of work
    - 2. Develop website
    - 3. Long term plan
- d. Options of large scale site analysis
  - i. Clarify group objectives
  - ii. Two working groups
- e. Question again for council on how best to coherently communicate the updates on FFRI
  - i. Redistribute newsletter from working group heads
  - ii. Standing monthly agenda item affirmed
    - 1. Need to structure better so all can understand what is going on
- f. Forest Service has stepped up and hired & paid for a facilitator, they are putting both money and manpower behind the initiative.
- g. "Unspoken Issues" of FFRI Raised
  - i. Any stipulations/monitoring in the FFRI process?
  - ii. Articulation of "restoration" in the initiative?
  - iii. Concern for this just being centered on Flagstaff

**7) Update regarding the WUI Fire Code working group ~ Ron Williams**

- a. Forum a success, purpose was to educate and get communities to adopt the WUI Fire Codes
- b. 70 People | 27 Communities Represented
- c. Ongoing push to adopt WUI Fire Codes
- d. It was suggested Ron provide a write up to share with other organizations/ NACO

**8) Update on progress of Statewide Strategy Scorecard and Progress Report ~ Steve Gatewood and Molly Pitts**

- a. No update, focus is on assessment currently

**9) Future Agenda items and presentation/discussion topics ~ Ethan Aumack and Molly Pitts**

- a. Presentation on the White Mountain Program for Nature Conservancy regarding the 5-year draft assessment of the stewardship contract suggested for April '10 from Sue Sitko.
- b. Statewide Strategy
  - i. Look at each Landscape Unit around the state

- c. FLRA
- d. Current status of CFRP in New Mexico
  - i. Walter Dunn
- e. Joint Meeting with other adjoining state Forest Health Councils
  - i. Discuss best practices
  - ii. Cooperation possibilities
- f. Insects & affects on forests
- g. Work in Southern Arizona

#### **10) Meeting Schedule and Locations**

- a. October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009 next council meeting – Prescott- Darryl will provide details to be distributed to council
- b. Darryl will arrange afternoon 'field trip'
  - i. Treatments on ground
  - ii. Private/Federal
  - iii. Groom Creek
- c. Morning meeting session will be at Prescott National Forest Airport
- d. Reconfirmed meeting schedule to be 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month- 3 months on/ 1 off
- e. December '09 - No Meeting

#### **11) Call to the Public~ No comments**

*This is the time for the public to comment. Members of the Board may not discuss items that are not on the agenda. Therefore, action taken as results of public comment will be limited to directing staff to study the matter or scheduling the matter for further considerations and decisions at a later date.*

*Dated this September 17th, 2009  
Governor's Forest Health Council  
<http://www.governor.state.az.us/FHC/>*

